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***Davis hosts 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Indiana Interconnect Conference,  
unveils results of statewide high-speed communications survey***

INDIANAPOLIS—As a part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Indiana Interconnect Conference, Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis today announced the results of a statewide survey on issues related to high-speed communication.

Davis spoke to the more than 200 participants at the conference, reporting on the progress Indiana is making in the realm of high-speed communication.

“In the past year we have doubled the number of high-speed connections throughout the state,” said Davis, who serves as the director of the Indiana Department of Commerce. “More than 450,000 small businesses and residential users have access to the Internet, connecting Hoosiers to other parts of the world and businesses to global markets.”

In 2003, there were 206,000 high-speed connections, which skyrocketed to 450,000 connections this year, representing a 103 percent increase in the number of households and small business that have access to the Internet via high-speed connections.

Survey results also indicate that high-speed connections are available to approximately 75 percent of the population in Indiana. If services provided by satellite are included, this percentage jumps to 95 percent.

The Indiana Interconnect annual conference is organized by the State’s broadband work group that includes representation from the Indiana Department of Commerce, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, Intelenet Commission, Center for Economic and Community Development at Ball State University, Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor, Indiana Economic Development Council Inc., Indiana Rural Development Council, Indiana Department of Transportation and Indiana Higher Education Technology System.

In addition to the conference, the work group has been charged with increasing connectivity throughout the state by acting as a resource for local communities, forging partnerships among the public and private sectors, and identifying potential funding sources to support additional investment in high-speed telecommunications.

For more information on the survey results or the State’s high-speed communication initiative, call 800.280.0584 or visit [www.indianacommerce.com/highspeedcommunication](http://www.indianacommerce.com/highspeedcommunication).

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